

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) A controlled release formulation for oral administration of metformin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof comprising metformin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient; a ~~mixture~~combination of a polyethylene oxide and a natural gum as a carrier for controlled release; and a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~excipient~~additive, wherein the weight ratio of metformin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~to~~to the carrier ranges from 1 : 0.01 to 1 : 1; ~~and wherein the weight ratio of the polyethylene oxide to~~to the natural gum is 0.27 : 1 to 1.6 : 1; ~~and wherein 40% or more of metformin is released within 2 hours after the formulation is immersed in a gastric fluid.~~

2. (Original) The controlled release formulation of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of metformin is metformin hydrochloride, metformin succinate or metformin fumarate.

3. (Original) The controlled release formulation of claim 1, wherein the polyethylene oxide has an average molecular weight in the range of 100,000 to 7,000,000.

4. (Original) The controlled release formulation of claim 1, wherein the natural gum is selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum, locust bean gum, guar gum and a mixture thereof.

5. (Canceled)